

# The Messenger

December 2013

## SPECIAL PRACTICE DATES

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES

Special practices have been set for the cast and Christmas Choir. Please see the article inside this issue for when you practice.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

### COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on December 1, followed by a coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a delicious delectable to share and have a relaxing morning with us.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting will be held on December 8, 2013, immediately following our worship service. Please see inside this issue for more details.

### CAROLING

After our Worship Service on December 8 we will travel to see our homebound members and to the local nursing homes to entertain them with songs of the season. So come join us to bring some holiday cheer to others.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Sunday School Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 14, from 11 am to noon. This will also be the last day to drop off "care packages" for the McKinney Clinic. Please see inside this issue for more details.

### DRESS REHEARSAL

Dress rehearsal for our Christmas Program will be at 12:30 after our pizza lunch. This will be a very important rehearsal and all cast, crew and choir members are asked to attend it.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

### SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Sunday School will present their Christmas Program during the worship service on December 15. Please mark it on your calendars and show our children and youth how much you appreciate and support their efforts to tell the story of our Savior's birth.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

On Christmas Eve, we will begin our celebration of Christ's birth with special music at 7 pm. Our Candlelight Service will begin at 7:30 pm and will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We hope that everyone will come to worship our new-born King. Come, let us adore Him.

## OPERATION SNOWFLAKE

If our Worship Services need to be cancelled due to bad weather, please tune in to radio stations WARM, Magic 93, 97BHT, 97.9X, or JR93.7.

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Do you wonder why there is a clock with no hands? Do you know what time it is? None of us really knows what time it is. We know that Advent begins this year on December 1 at midnight. So what does that mean? It means we need to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus. And with all that goes on this time of year it may not be so easy.

Here is a version of Psalm 23 from Japan, as reprinted in Mother Teresa, *Life in the Spirit: Reflections, Meditations, Prayers*, ed. Kathryn Spink (San Francisco, Harper & Row, 1983), 76-77.

Keep this close at hand and read it each day of Advent. It will be a reminder to slow down and live prayerfully as you prepare for Jesus' arrival instead of preparing for the arrival of Santa.

The Lord is my pace setter . . . I shall not rush  
He makes me stop for quiet intervals  
He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity  
He leads me in the way of efficiency through calmness of mind and his guidance is peace  
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret, for his presence is here  
His timelessness, his all importance will keep me in balance  
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity by anointing my mind with his oils of tranquility  
My cup of joyous energy overflows  
Truly harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours for I shall walk in the Pace of my Lord and dwell in his house for ever.

As we go through this busy time – take time to pray and thank God for life, love, family, friends, and Emmanuel.

Blessings during this Advent season culminating in a very blessed Christmas!

Pastor Penny

### *Thank You*

We received a letter Bethany Children's Home thanking us for our recent donation. Our gifts help provide for daily care in a safe, nurturing home environment. The letter is on the bell tower bulletin board.

Special thanks to everyone who worked on the Fellowship Hall renovations and around the pavilion, digging, planting grass, grading, etc.: Steve Moyer, Gene Broyan, Pete Dixon, Marc Davis, Jim Stewart, Bill Eckrote, Don Myers, Donnie Murray, Allen Dennis, Ron Rinehimer and Josh Cronce. Your dedication to Emmanuel is very much appreciated.

### *Our Condolences*

We offer our sympathy to Adele Majewski on the passing of her son, Joseph, on Nov. 6. We pray for God to comfort you and give you peace.

Our sincere condolences are given to Pete and Betty Dickson on the passing of his cousin, Mae Borges. May God's peace be with you.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, December 8, after our Worship Service. The proposed 2014 Budget was approved by the Consistory for distribution in the weekly bulletins and extra copies are available on the table in the Narthex.

**NOTICE TO ALL COMMITTEES, TEAMS AND ASSOCIATIONS:** In accordance with our Constitution Article 10, All committees should have a report prepared for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

**“Article 10. ORGANIZATIONS, SOCIETIES.** All organizations and societies of the Congregation are subordinate to the Consistory and shall make an annual report (Activities and Financial) to the Congregation.”

## FAITH, REFLECTION, OUTREACH, GROWTH

Thanks to everyone who participated and gave their time and talent to renewing our Vision and Mission Statements. Our Vision Statement is **“Faith, Reflection, Outreach, Growth”**. Expanding on those words, we worked out a Mission Statement for us to follow in order to fulfill the Vision.

**“Empowered by our faith in Jesus Christ, the mission of Emmanuel United Church of Christ is to use the power of reflective prayer to reach out and serve those in spiritual and physical need and to spread the good news in our community in order to grow our family of God.”**

We also discussed concrete ways to put the Mission Statement into action. Ideas for outreach included post cards, handing out brochures and/or magnets with our name and worship times, and planning community events, to name a few. (Like Re-Creation, Men-in-Harmony, etc., and a family day geared toward families with kids) All these plans, however, are dependent upon our own faith and reflecting on our own role in Christ's church, both individually and as the body of Christ as outlined in the first phrase: “Empowered by our faith in Jesus Christ...” Faith in Christ is our power source, prayer will guide us, outreach and service will define us, growth will be the result.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Did you ever think about the first people who were told about Jesus' birth? What was God thinking? Shepherds!? No one bothered with the shepherds. They lived out in the fields with the sheep, not in town with the respectable folk. But on one special night God showed us how important everyone is to him. It was quite a shock to the shepherds when the angels announced the birth of the Christ to them of all people. How happy they must have been. What feelings of self-worth and dignity must have inspired them to venture into town and seek out their Messiah. And then they proclaimed to anyone who would listen that our Savior had been born. Not too shabby for shabby shepherds, right?

If you would like to be a part of our program, please see me. We have non-speaking parts for townspeople which need to be filled. We also welcome anyone who would like to be part of the Christmas Choir.

Practices for the Christmas Program are scheduled for the following dates:

Wed., 12/4	6:30 to 7:15 pm	Christmas Choir
Fri., 12/6	4:30 to 5:30 pm	Speaking Parts
Wed., 12/11	6:30 to 7:15 pm	Christmas Choir
Fri., 12/13	4:30 to 5:30 pm	Speaking Parts
Sat, 12/14	12:30 to 1:30 pm Dress Rehearsal	ALL CAST & CHOIRS
Sun, 12/15	9:00 am (during Sunday School)	ALL CAST & CHOIRS

Everyone involved in the program is urged to come to practices. We need just an hour here and there and this will be a great program.

I am really happy for all who volunteer to make this program possible. You are a great bunch of kids and adults and I really enjoy working with you (honest!). I am always so proud of the way you make our programs come to life and love your enthusiasm.

Thanks for your dedication,

Denise



## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will meet after the Annual Meeting on December 8 for caroling. We'll raise our voices and spirits as we sing songs of the season to residents of our local nursing homes and to our homebound. Come with us and sing glory to the newborn king!

## CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

Esther Heller celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 2. To help her celebrate, you can send a card to her at 39 Acher Rd., Wapwallopen, PA 18660. Happy Birthday, Esther, and many more!!

### NEW BABY

Dave and Rosemary Myers are the proud grandparents of Dylan James Glasser. Dylan was born on November 11 and weighed 8 lb 4 oz and was 21" long. His parents are Chelsea (Myers) and Daniel Glasser. Congratulations to the Myers and Glasser families!

### POINSETTIA SIGN-UP SHEETS

There are sign-up sheets on the tables in the Narthex and next to the fellowship hall doorway for you to purchase poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary. The last day to sign up is December 15.

### ALTAR FLOWER CHART

The chart for the altar flowers is on the table in the Narthex. The price is still \$12.50 per vase. Please pay Mary or Jim Rinehimer for the dates you sponsor.

### CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPE

Please be generous in giving to our church ministries supported by this offering:

Phoebe Devitt Home

Bethany Children's Home

Lancaster Theological Seminary

These organizations sincerely need and appreciate your support. Every penny counts with today's expenses, so please give generously. The "Christmas Offering" is a benevolence offering and is not used to build up the General Fund. ***Your regular offering is needed to support the General Fund and the local mission of your church.***

## BETHANY CHRISTMAS LIST

Copies of the 2013 Christmas Wish List are on the table in the Narthex. Please note that the children at Bethany are teenagers. Specific gift items are included on the Christmas Wish List or if you prefer, the children love to receive gift cards to department stores, craft stores, area malls, etc. Please choose age-appropriate gifts with consideration for parental warnings, modest clothing and safety. The gifts should not be wrapped since Bethany's staff will do that. Just drop them in the box wrapped in Christmas paper in the Narthex.

## Special MUSIC Christmas Eve

Anyone wishing to present music prior to the Christmas Eve Early Service is asked to see Denise Dean. We will begin at 7:00 pm and conclude at 7:30 pm. If you are more inclined to read a poem or selection, that would be very welcome also.

### Sunday School News

**THANKSGIVING DINNERS** – Thank you for being so generous. We again were able to provide meals for ten families thanks to you.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 14

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 14 from 11 am to 12 pm. We are asking all the kids to **bring a piece of fruit for the baskets for our shut-ins and a new or "gently used" stuffed animal or toy** to be wrapped for the children of the McKinney Clinic.

We will also be gathering **care packages** to keep with our ongoing theme **"Giving without Thinking of Receiving"** for distribution to the people served by the McKinney Clinic. Bernie, the director of the clinic, has asked that we provide more men's packages. She says that they minister to more men than women and so there is a greater need for men's gifts. The packages should include: ***new white socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, comb, razor, hand lotion and a candy cane.*** *If you would like to add anything else, please feel free (only nothing with alcohol in it).* ***Also appreciated are gift cards from Walmart and K-Mart. A freezer bag holds the items very well.*** Attach a card signed by your family and send it with your child(ren) to the Christmas party or drop it off in the narthex under the Christmas tree **before Saturday, December 14.** Thank you for all your generosity. When making your care package, please talk with your child(ren) about how wonderful it feels to know you will make someone's Christmas brighter by giving!

Thank you for all your support, Lisa Rinehimer

### The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree has been set up in the Narthex. Just take an ornament, purchase the item listed on it, wrap it, tape the ornament to the package and place it under the tree. You may also include a card from you and your family.







At our Meeting on November 21, the Consistory discussed placing a Suggestion Box on the table in the Narthex for anyone to give suggestions. In order for us to be able to clarify any questions we might have and to give proper credit, we ask you to sign your suggestions. Only signed suggestions will be considered.



### **PNEC Disaster Response Ministry Message from Linda Lenhart:**

*"Typhoon Haiyan has killed as many as 10,000 people in the Philippines, with the devastation it caused being described as "absolute bedlam," the BBC reported. Nearly 4.5 million persons have been affected by the storm. The United Church of Christ today issued an appeal to church members and friends for \$250,000 to support Typhoon Haiyan response efforts"*

*"On Sunday November 17, 2013 a large portion of the Great Lakes and Midwest United States experienced several types of severe weather. Many locations reported damaging winds, hail and up to 68 tornadoes. UCC Disaster Ministries staff is in contact with impacted UCC Conference Ministers and Conference Disaster Coordinators to assess damage and offer support from ne Great Hour of Sharing."*

I would like to make a request. When you go to prayer at your Thanksgiving table with your family and friends keep our brothers and sisters in the United States and internationally in your prayers.

Ongoing ways to help:

1. Pray for the people and communities impacted by disasters.
2. Make a gift payable to PNEC marked for Disaster Response Ministry Storms  
(*SEE THE ENVELOPES IN OUR PEWS --- DENISE*)
3. Assemble Church World Service kits which are urgently needed.
4. Ways to stay informed: [www.pnec.org](http://www.pnec.org) ,  
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) , [www.cws.org](http://www.cws.org)

I wish you all a safe and peaceful holiday season!

## **PICTURE PERFECT**

**Check the front door bulletin board  
for these mug shots!**

Who's that young lady celebrating her birthday? It's **Esther Heller**, of course! Esther celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday in the company of her loving family. We wish you another great year, Esther!

**Brayden Belanchik and Keirsten Whitmire** were all decked out in their costumes for the Sunday School Fall Fest held on October 26. Everyone had fun playing games, making crafts and scarfing down all those cookies and cupcakes.

## **CONSISTORY MEETING**

The Consistory will meet on **Thursday, December 19** at 6:30 pm.

### **E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR CONSISTORY**

A "group" e-mail address has been set up so that you can contact members of the consistory by using just one address: [consistory@emmanuel-ucc.org](mailto:consistory@emmanuel-ucc.org).

## **VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE DECEMBER**

### Dec. 1

Greeters: Connie Davis and Diana Decker  
Liturgist: Sharon Moyer

### Dec. 8

Greeters: Dave and Rosemary Myers  
Liturgist: Brooke Rinehimer

### Dec. 15

Greeters: Gene and Janice Broyan  
Liturgist: Jill Bernetski

### Dec. 22

Greeters: Judy Cybulski and Connie Myers  
Liturgist: Dave Myers

### Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)

Greeters: Camille Daniels and Barb DeLuca  
Liturgist: Jim Rinehimer

### Dec. 29

Greeters: Morgan Rinehimer & Michelle Bernetski  
Liturgist: Wayne Mast

### **OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS**

Dave & Rosemary Myers  
Clifford & Gladys Readler  
Nora Cybulski

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Ronald Kania	10 Lorrie Slusser	24 Lonnie Rinehimer, Sr.
2 Esther Heller	11 Susanne Kaminski	25 Anthony DiMaria
2 Bonnie Shafer	15 Kelsey Rinehimer	26 Russell Koons
3 David A. Myers	17 Danielle Pallando	26 Linda Byrnes
3 Aaron Kleger	18 Sabian Bunnell	28 Lonnie Rinehimer, Jr.
10 Michael Belanchik	20 Darlene Stein	31 Sandy Kleger
	21 Mary Rinehimer	

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 13, 1968 .....Lonnie and Mary Rinehimer

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